(ii) Advising the Public Sector Banks to prepare Special Agriculture Credit Plans (SACP) for increasing credit flow to agriculture;

(iii) Coverage of all eligible farmers by 31st March, 2004 under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme;

(iv) Refinance to banks at concessional rate of interest to enable them to increase the credit flow to agriculture sector;

(v) Introduction of the Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana;

(vi) Simplifying the loan procedures based on the recommendations contained in the Report of the High Level Committee on Agricultural Credit;

(vii) Setting up of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund with NABARD;

(viii) Introduction of the Scheme for financing Agri-clinics and Agri-business centres;

(ix) Introduction of scheme for financing farmers for purchase of land for agricultural purposes;

(x) Increase in the distribution of inputs for activities allied to agriculture.

As a result of the above initiatives, agricultural advances of public sector banks has increased from Rs. 46,189.55 crore in March, 2000 to Rs. 53,685.36 crore in March, 2001 and further to Rs. 63,082.99 crore in March, 2002.

Direct tax collections

4676. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the direct tax collections for year 2002-03 have surpassed the revised estimate of Rs. 44,700 crore in the corporate tax collection;

(b) whether the income tax refunds have grown by 67 per cent to Rs. 5,664 crore against Rs. 3,384 crore in 2001-02; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the latest figures available, refunds under the head Income Tax have grown by 70.59% to Rs. 5,773 crores in Financial Year 2002-03 over Rs. 3,384 crores in Financial Year 2001-02.

(c) The Government had issued instructions to the Income Tax Department in Financial Year 2002-03 to process all pending returns and the returns filed during the year and to issue all refunds arising therefrom by 28-2-03. Therefore, larger number and amount of refunds have been issued during Financial Year 2002-03.

Amounts sanctioned to Department of Income Tax, Chhattisgarh

†4677. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes received from the Department of Income Tax of the Government of Chhattisgarh and the amount sanctioned for them during 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(b) the quantum of amount that has been provided to the State Government out of the said amount so far; and

(c) by when the remaining amount will be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) There is no Department of Income Tax of the State Government of Chhattisgarh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Annual report of International Narcotics Control Board

4678. DR. A. R. KIDWAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Narcotics Control Board in its annual report expressed concern over the adverse socio-economic impact of vastly increasing illicit drug trade that accounts for 99 per cent of the entire drug business world-wide,

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the report; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to remove the adverse socio-economic impact mentioned in the report?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.